



Independent School Dist. No. 857
100 County Road 25
Lewiston, MN 55952
(507) 523-2191

Gwen Carman, Superintendent
Cory Hanson, High School Principal • Dave Riebel, PK - Elementary Principal

Building A Caring, Adaptable, Respectful, Determined, Successful Community of Learners

Belief Statements (internal operations- beliefs to drive decisions):

- **LIFELONG LEARNERS:** We believe in the value of education for all ages.
- **ACCOUNTABILITY:** We believe we are accountable for our actions and outcomes.
- **COMMUNITY CENTERED:** We believe our schools are the central hub of our community and essential for building strong communities.
- **ADAPTABLE:** We believe in being responsive to an ever-changing world.
- **RESPECTFUL:** We believe in everyone's right to safety, respect, and dignity in our schools.
- **DIVERSE:** We believe in fostering the value of each other's individual differences, perspectives, and life experiences.
- **STUDENT FOCUSED:** We believe that we are all responsible for the success of students.

Goals

1. **STUDENT SUCCESS:** Provide all students with the education they need for success: academically, emotionally, and socially.
2. **EFFECTIVE STAFFING:** Hire, maintain, train and support staff to be as effective as possible.
3. **FINANCE:** Be financially healthy and sustainable.
4. **FACILITIES:** Have facilities that are safe, modern and conducive to 21st century education.
5. **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:** Engage with parents, community members and business owners.

Superintendent's Report to the School Board

Respectfully Submitted by Gwen Carman

July 14, 2025

Meeting Agenda Items Notes

Falcon View Academy Contract We have not received any licensed applications to replace Mr. Simon to teach Life Science (Biology, 7th grade science), Chemistry and Physics in 2025-2026. As an innovative alternative, we are recommending that we hire Carly Steele who is eligible for a Tier I Life Science License (she did this in 2022-2023 in district) at 0.67 FTE. In addition, we are recommending we enter a contract with Falcon Academy (W-K's online school) to have Chemistry and Physics students receive online instruction and also hire Ms. Steel to be an Instructional Supervisor to supervise and support the students with their Chemistry (30 students) and Physics (23 students) coursework in their regular scheduled class periods.

Dr. Hanson and I have been speaking with W-K Superintendent Nels Onstad and the Falcon Academy principal about the details of this unique arrangement. The Chemistry and Physics course content would primarily be delivered via sequential online lessons and assessments. What is unique in our situation from typical online classes is that the online teacher will 'log on live' and talk with the students to update, answer questions, etc at least once weekly during their scheduled Chemistry or Physics class periods. Falcon Academy is excited to work with us as it is their goal to increase their partnerships with regional high schools to provide quality, and cost effective (for them and the districts) online instruction.

While we would prefer a 'live' teacher in our classrooms to deliver the instruction, that does not seem possible at this point. Dr. and Hanson and I agree that this is an ideal 'hybrid' model of online instruction. The students will be carefully

monitored so they are accountable to stay on track with the coursework with have ‘live’ support if needed. It is also an opportunity to ‘teach’ students *how* to successfully take online courses which are more and more common in many post secondary schools.

Financially, when we compare the district’s costs from FY25 with what we are proposing for FY26 with Ms. Steel and the online contract, we are estimating a savings of \$15,000.

Budget Amount Correction At the June 23rd meeting in the official action to approve the FY26 budget the expenditure amount was incorrect – primarily due to inadvertent exclusion of the FY26 construction expenses. The approved budget handout is attached as part of the Consent Agenda with an approval item to correct the expenditure total. Note that the construction bond revenues were received in FY25, while most of the expenditures will happen in FY26 an FY27.

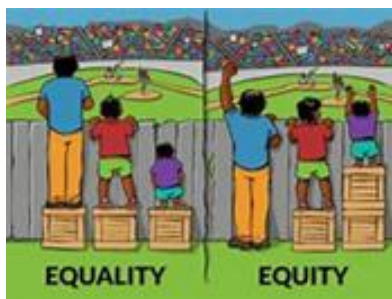
Long Term Facilities Maintenance Plan The district is required to have an approved Long Term Facilities Maintenance Plan that is submitted to MDE for approval by July 31st. This plan is a requirement in order for us the received LTFM funds. LTFM funds are specifically for costs associated with required facility testing, inspections and repairs/maintenance (“like for like”). Thank you to Business Manager Schreiber for preparing the LTFM plan for your approval.

Strategic Plan Updates In the Spring of 2023, the School Board and administrators worked with True North Consulting on a 2023-2025 Strategic Plan. At the July meeting, I will have the printed materials we developed that show the priorities and goals we identified. The consultants recommended to limit the goals to 2-3 years so the plan could be more manageable and be a more effective ‘working document.’ The attachment of June 2025 Updates shows my perspective on updates on what we have accomplished and continued focuses for 2025-2026.

OTHER ITEMS

Solar Panels Construction is nearly completed at the high school, and waiting for MiEnergy to complete their upgrades at the high school. The panels have been delivered to the elementary school and installation will be underway. We are planning to have an ‘open house/ribbon cutting’ – date TBD.

Auction Planning Grafe Auction will be here July 14th and I will have an update at the Board meeting.

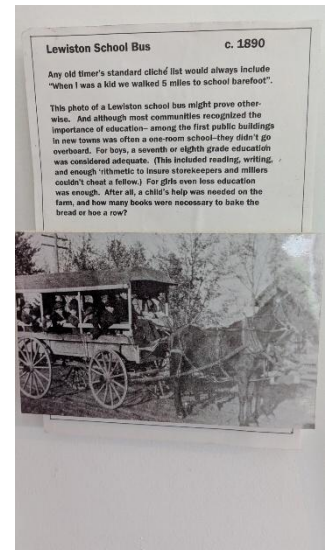


Equity is important in all our decision making.

(SEE NEXT PAGE)

Winona County Education & Lewiston – Altura School District History

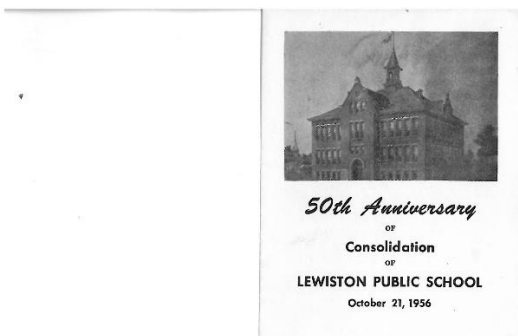
I have been a member of the Winona County Historical Society Board since 2021. On July 10th, I volunteered to be at the Gainey-McCarthy Schoolhouse on the Fairgrounds in St. Charles as part of the Winona County Fair. It was a very interesting opportunity to reflect on public education, as well as interesting to talk with many people as they remembered their elementary education years. One particularly significant fact I learned is that in 1913, there were over 115 one room schoolhouses in Winona County. These began to close in the 1960s when ‘education reforms’ consolidated into larger community schools. For the Lewiston and Altura communities, it is my understanding that they merged in 1906 as a single ‘district’. In 1956, the district celebrated a 50 year anniversary of ‘Lewiston School’ making 2026 the district’s 120th anniversary. Also, see photo from 1890 of a Lewiston School bus.



1906 School Board	
Wm. F. Gensamer, President	P. C. Daley
James E. Peters, Clerk	J. Nussloch
John Ronan, Treasurer	B. B. Blanchard

1956 School Board	
Dr. K. W. Klaus, President	James Hruska
Webster Fischer, Clerk	Wm. Neldner
Elmer Wirt, Treasurer	John Daley

PTA Anniversary Committee	
Mrs. Harold Cady, Chairman	
Mrs. Webster Fischer	Mrs. Beuford Wirt
Miss Frances Blanchard	Miss Alice Stickney
Mrs. Leo McCormick	Mrs. Kenneth Klaus
Mrs. Howard Every	Mrs. Edmund Luehmann



50th Anniversary Observance	
<p style="text-align: center;">SPONSORED BY LEWISTON PTA ASSISTED BY CLASS OF 1957</p>	
<p>1:30 - 3:00 Open House at Lewiston Public School</p> <p>3:00 - 4:00 Program in Auditorium</p> <p>4:00 Silver Tea in Gymnasium</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">PROGRAM</p> <p>Welcome—Mrs. Edmund Luehmann, PTA Pres.</p> <p>Alumni Response</p> <p>Introduction of Lewiston High School Faculty —Mr. Donald B. Nelson, Supt.</p> <p>Recognition of School Board Members —Dr. K. W. Klaus, President</p> <p>Reminiscing by Former Faculty Members</p> <p>Recognition of former School Board Members and Wives</p> <p>Reading of Special Messages</p> <p>Roll Call of Students and Teachers</p> <p>Style Revue—1906 to 1956</p>